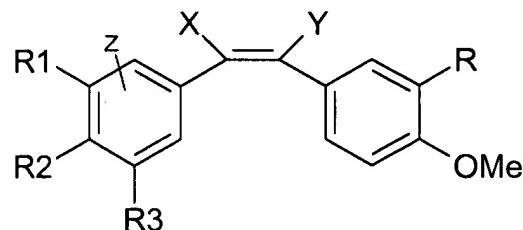


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, which can be the same or different, are ~~[[H,]]~~-OMe, NO<sub>2</sub>, NHR';

X and Y are halogen or H with at least one of them being halogen;

Z = H or halogen

R = OH, OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NHR';

R' = H, alkyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>), -(COCHR"NH)<sub>n</sub>H;

R" = H, an amino acid side chain, Ph;

n an integer comprised between 1 and 3;

~~[[their]] its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, racemates and single enantiomers~~ salt, racemate and single enantiomer.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>3</sub> are methoxy, and R is hydroxy;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>3</sub> are methoxy, R is amino or substituted amino;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>3</sub> are different from methoxy, R is hydroxy; and

a compound wherein R is OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>; and

~~a compound wherein R' is (COCHR"NH)<sub>n</sub>-H.~~

3. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R" is the side chain of a natural amino acid.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

X = Y = F; R = OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>: difluorocombretastatin;

X = Y = F; R = NH<sub>2</sub>: difluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = NH<sub>2</sub>: monofluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = NH<sub>2</sub>: monofluoroaminocombretastatin[.]; and

X = Br; Y = F; R = OPO<sub>3</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>: bromofluorocombretastatin.

5. (original) A process for the preparation of the compounds of Claim 1, wherein X and Y are both F comprising the following steps:

a) reaction of 1-bromo-1,2-difluoro-2-(4-methoxy-3-(protected OH)-phenyl)ethene with 3-R<sub>1</sub>-4-

R<sub>2</sub>-5-R<sub>3</sub>-phenylboronic acid, and

b) restoring the 3-(protected OH) group.

6. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F and the other one is hydrogen, comprises the following steps:

- a) bromofluorination of the compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

7. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective bromohydrin, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

8. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective epoxide;
- b) epoxide opening to give the respective bromohydrin, and
- c) base-promoted HBr elimination, or in alternative,
- d) epoxide opening to give the respective fluorohydrin, and
- e) elimination of the opportune hydroxyl derivative.

9. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X or Y is F and the other is Br, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective bromohydrin, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

10. (previously presented) A method of inhibiting tubulin polymerization comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

11.-12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]A method according to Claim 13, wherein said of treating a~~  
~~tumour [[is]] selected from the group consisting of sarcoma, carcinoma, carcinoid, bone tumour,~~  
~~neuroendocrine tumour, lymphoid leukaemia, acute promyelocytic leukaemia, myeloid~~  
~~leukaemia, monocytic leukaemia, megakaryoblastic leukaemia, non Hodgkin's disease,~~  
~~hemangiomas and multiple myeloma, and anaplastic thyroid cancer, comprising administering to~~  
~~a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.~~

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]A method according to Claim 16, wherein said~~ of treating a pathological state caused by abnormal angiogenesis ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the group consisting of tumour metastases; arthritic disease; diabetic retinopathy; macular degeneration, psoriasis; chronic inflammatory diseases and arteriosclerosis comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a compound of Claim 1, in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient.

20. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]A method according to claim 18, wherein the non-neoplastic disease is~~ of treating ischemia-induced proliferative retinopathy comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

21. (new) A method of treating a lung carcinoma comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.